

REMARKS

Claims 8-15 are pending in this application. Claims 8-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants have cancelled Claims 11 and 12. Applicants have amended Claims 8 and 13. Therefore, Claims 8-10 and 13-15 are now pending. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the Office action of October 21, 2005 in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants would like to extend gratitude to the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview with Applicants' representative on January 18, 2006. During the interview Applicants' representative explained the operation of the invention to the examiner and clarified how the invention differs from the prior art, particularly the Kent reference. Specifically, per claim 8, the Office action stated that Landfield discloses receiving an encrypted email message, decrypting the email message in accordance with encryption data, but fails to disclose extracting signature data from the message, verifying the signature, or transmitting the e-mail in accordance with the verifying. However, the Office action stated that Kent discloses those missing features in Page 4, Paragraphs 3 and 4. However, the Examiner stated during the telephone interview that post-processing transmission of an email message as an encapsulated email message likely distinguishes Claim 8 from the combination of Landfield with Kent. The Examiner also stated that the servicing of multiple recipients by the security manager element of Claim 8 would distinguish Claim 8 from the combination of Landfield with Kent. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 8 to recite that email messages intended for multiple users are processed by the security manager. Claim 8 will also be amended to recite that the email message is forwarded to a recipient by employing a transmission protocol used for encapsulated email.

Additionally, with respect to Claim 13, the Examiner stated that explicit recitation of applying a policy to determine whether to sign an email message would distinguish the claim from the combination of Landfield with Kent. Applicants have amended Claim 13 to recite that the a policy which employs rules is used in determining whether to sign an email message and which signature to apply. Applicants also amended Claim 13 to

further distinguish it from the prior art by reciting that the method is applied to messages from a plurality of users.

Therefore, Applicants would like to enter the above amendments to more specifically recite such features which Examiner believes are distinguishable from the cited prior art and would move the present application towards allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that the finality of the Office action is withdrawn so as to allow Applicants to enter such amendments to the claims.

SUMMARY

In view of the forgoing supporting remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action, that the finality of that action be withdrawn, and entry of the above amendments to the claims.

If the Examiner wishes to direct any questions concerning this application to the undersigned Applicants' representative, please call the number indicated below.

Dated: March 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Guy Perry
Reg. No. 46,194

Attorney for Applicant
(212) 735-3000
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Four Times Square
New York, NY 10036